

# Victory Garden 101: Basic Garden Planning for Success

## Notes Page

### Topics for Today:

- Choosing what to grow
- Steps for Planning
- Planning in Time: When to Plant
- Planning in Space: Where to Plant
- Merging Planning in Time & Space
- Quick Intro to Crop Rotation

### What is Your Garden Priority?

- Fresh Vegetables During the Season
- Canning/Preserving
- Saving Money on Groceries
- Growing Produce You Can't Afford/Find
- Enjoyment/Exercise/Hobby
- Kids' Activity/Educational

### 1<sup>st</sup> Steps: Measure Your Garden

### 1<sup>st</sup> Steps: Make a List of Vegetables

- Must Haves
- Would Like
- Fun to Try

### Think About Varieties

- Heirlooms vs. Hybrids
- Important characteristics
- Recommended Varieties
- All American Selections

### 1<sup>st</sup> Steps: Choose a Spot for Perennials

- Asparagus...Rhubarb...Strawberries...

### Planning in Time: When

- Planting Time
- Harvest Time
- Fall & Winter Gardening

### Cool Season Vegetables

- Prefer cooler, moderate temperatures
- Tolerate frosts and cold weather
- Can be over-wintered with protection
- Grow best in spring and fall
- May bolt, lose quality, or die in the heat

### Warm Season Vegetables

- Need warm temperatures to grow
- Will grow best during the heat of summer
- Usually do not tolerate frosts or freezes

- Usually cannot be over-wintered

### **Cool Season**

- Lettuce
- Radishes
- Spinach
- Potatoes
- Onions
- Peas
- Carrots
- Asparagus
- Rhubarb

### **Warm Season**

- Tomatoes
- Cucumbers
- Beans
- Peppers
- Melons
- Sweetpotatoes
- Pumpkins
- Squash
- Eggplant

### **Beware of Frost!**

- A 50-50 chance of frost: April 17<sup>th</sup>
- 50% April 17
- 40% April 20
- 30% April 23
- 20% April 27
- 10% May 2

### **Planting Time**

- Soil Temperature is MOST important
- Cool Season - 45° F
- Warm Season - 55° F
- Very Warm Season - 60° F
- Measure at 2-3" soil depth in late morning

### **Harvest Time**

#### **Think About Days to Maturity**

- There is often a sharp difference
- Tomatoes – 52 to 100+ DTM
- Sweet Corn – 62 to 94 DTM
- Broccoli – 55 to 75 DTM
- Eggplant – 50 to 80 DTM
- Lettuce – 45 to 75 DTM

#### **Starting Your Own Transplants**

- Count back from ideal planting time

## Planning in Space: Where

### Making the Most of Your Space

- Small Spaces
  - Plant most productive things
  - Plant most expensive things
- Medium Spaces
  - Plant productive things
  - Plant things you love
- Large Space
  - Plant anything, but prioritize

### A Few Thoughts About Layout

- Group early crops together
- Think about tools and labor

### Types of Layouts

- Rows
- Wide Row – Bed System
- Raised Bed Grid

### How Do We Determine the Spacings?

- Vegetable Garden Planting Guide
- In Row Spacings
- Between Row Spacings
- Raised Beds – Use In Row Spacing

### Don't Be Tempted to Crowd Your Plants!

### Use the Vertical Space

What about Sun?

Slope?

East-West Rows?

North-South Rows?

What about Companion Planting?

You Can Stop Here if You Want!

### Merging Space & Time

- Planting in the Same Spot Multiple Times

### Short Season Vegetables

- Radishes
- Some lettuces
- Salad mixes
- Spinach

### Half Season Vegetables

- Potatoes

- Onions
- Beets
- Carrots
- Peas
- Beans
- Lettuces
- Broccoli

### **Vegetables That Can Start Late**

- Okra
- Sweet Potatoes
- Vine Crops
- Eggplant
- Peppers
- Even Tomatoes!

### **When It's Time to Move On...**

- Dying or Diseased
- Low Productivity
- Hot Summer Temps
- Cool Fall Temps

### **Crop Rotation**

- Maintains healthy soil
- Breaks insect and disease cycles
- Plant vegetables from different "families"

### **Rotate by Plant Families**

- Vine crops
- Tomato Family
- Leafy Greens
- Root Vegetables
- Beans & Peas
- Brassicas
- Other Misc.

### **Simple Crop Rotation**

#### **What if You Can't Rotate?**

- Choose Disease Resistant Varieties
- Watch for Disease Problems
- Watch for Nutrient Deficiencies

**Your Garden Plan Can Be as Simple or as Complex as You Want it to Be!**

## Questions?

- For More Information:
  - Master Gardener Hotline
    - [sgemghotline@gmail.com](mailto:sgemghotline@gmail.com) - preferred
    - 316-660-0190
    - M-F, 9-12 and 1-4
    - Walk-In Clinic (not right now, but eventually)
  - Extension E-Newsletter
    - Text: EXTENSION to 42828
  - Horticulture Information Center:
    - <http://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/>
- Social Media
  - Facebook Page: <http://facebook.com/sedgwickextension>
  - Instagram: @ksresedgwickco
  - The Demo Garden blog: <http://thedemogarden.org>

## References & Resources for Additional Learning

### Find Your Local Extension Office & Resources:

**Kansas:** <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/stateandareamaps.html>

**Other States:** Do an internet search for “*your state* extension” or “*your county* extension.” It is usually affiliated with the land grant university in your state.

**Kansas Garden Guide:** <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/s51.pdf> (pages 6-8, 21-23, 30-32, 40-42, 43-48, 51-69, 75-76)

**Vegetable Garden Planting Guide:** <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf315.pdf>

**Recommended Vegetable Varieties:** <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/L41.pdf>

**Container Gardening:** <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2873.pdf>

### Raised Bed Gardening:

Publication: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf2134.pdf>

Video: <https://kansashealthyyards.org/all-videos/video/building-a-raised-bed-for-gardens>

### Vegetable Storage & Root Cellaring:

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/real-food/root-cellaring/fundamentals-of-root-cellaring-zm0z91zsie.aspx>

<http://extension.missouri.edu/p/MP562>

<http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF661.pdf>

<http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g2189.pdf>